

#### **Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism**

July 23, 2007

Historic Preservation & Museum Division

Mr. Paul Wheeler Kleinfelder 7 Airport Park Boulevard Latham, NY 12110

59 South Prospect Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(v) 860.566.3005 (f) 860.566.5078 Subject:

Telecommunications Facilities

MCF Communications Inc.

Exeter Drive Sterling, CT Project No. 84747

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office expects that the proposed undertaking will have <u>no effect</u> on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking.

This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



### United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

March 6, 2007

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) New England Field Office has determined that individual project review for certain types of activities associated with communication towers is not required. These comments are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Due to the rapid expansion of the telecommunication industry, we are receiving a growing number of requests for review of existing and new telecommunication facilities in relation to the presence of federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, wilderness areas and/or wildlife preserves. We have evaluated our review process for proposed communications towers and believe that individual correspondence with this office is not required for the following types of actions relative to existing facilities:

- 1. the re-licensing of existing telecommunication facilities;
- 2. audits of existing facilities associated with acquisition;
- 3. routine maintenance of existing tower sites, such as painting, antenna or panel replacement, upgrading of existing equipment, etc.;
- 4. co-location of new antenna facilities on/in existing structures;
- 5. repair or replacement of existing towers and/or equipment, provided such activities do not significantly increase the existing tower mass and height, or require the addition of guy wires.

In order to curtail the need to contact this office in the future for individual environmental review for existing communication towers or antenna facilities, please note that we are not aware of any federally-listed, threatened or endangered species that are being adversely affected by any existing communication tower or antenna facility in the following states: Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Furthermore, we are not aware of any existing telecommunication towers in federally-designated critical habitats, wilderness areas or wildlife preserves. Therefore, no further consultation with this office relative to the impact of the above referenced activities on federally-listed species is required.

#### Future Coordination with this Office Relative to New Telecommunication Facilities

We have determined that proposed projects are not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed or proposed species when the following steps are taken to evaluate new telecommunication facilities:

- 1. If the facility will be installed within or on an existing structure, such as in a church steeple or on the roof of an existing building, no further coordination with this office is necessary. Similarly, new antennas or towers in urban and other developed areas, in which no natural vegetation will be affected, do not require further review.
- 2. If the above criteria cannot be met, your review of the attached lists of threatened and endangered species locations within Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts may confirm that no federally-listed endangered or threatened species are known to occur in the town or county where the project is proposed.
- 3. If a listed species is present in the town or county where the project is proposed, further review of our enclosed lists of threatened and endangered species may allow you to conclude that suitable habitat for the species will not be affected. Based on past experiences, we anticipate that there will be few, if any, projects that are likely to impact piping plovers, roseate terns, bog turtles, Jesup's milkvetch or other such species that are found on coastal beaches, riverine habitats or in wetlands because communication towers typically are not located in these habitats.

For projects that meet the above criteria, there is no need to contact this office for further project review. A copy of this letter should be retained in your file as the Service's determination that no listed species are present, or that listed species in the general area will not be affected. Due to the high workload associated with responding to many individual requests for threatened and endangered species information, we will no longer be providing response letters for activities that meet the above criteria. This correspondence and the enclosed species lists remain valid until January 1, 2008.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please contact me at 603-223-2541 for further assistance.

Sincerely yours.

Anthony P. Tur

Endangered Species Specialist New England Field Office

Enclosures

### FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN CONNECTICUT

Common Name	Species	Status	County/General Distribution
Sturgeon, shortnose <sup>1</sup>	Acipenser brevirostrum	E	Atlantic coastal waters and Connecticut River
Bat, Indiana	Myotis sodalis	Е	New Haven/hibernaculum
Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	T	Nesting: Hartford, Litchfield Wintering: entire state, major rivers
Plover, piping	Charadrius melodus	T	Nesting: Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London (coastal beaches) Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Tern, Roseate	Sterna dougallii dougallii	E	Nesting: New Haven (coastal island) Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Turtle, bog	Clemmys muhlenbergii	Т	Fairfield, Litchfield
Wedge mussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon	Е	Hartford
Beetle, Puritan tiger	Cicindela puritana	Т	Hartford, Middlesex (Connecticut River floodplain)
Beetle, Northeastern beach	Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis	Т	Coastal beaches/Extirpated
Small whorled pogonia	Isotria medeoloides	Т	Litchfield, New Haven
Sandplain gerardia	Agalinus acuta	E	Hartford
Chaffseed	Scwalbea Americana	Е	New London/Historic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Principal responsibility for this species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Common Name	Species	Status	County/General Distribution
Sturgeon, shortnose <sup>1</sup>	Acipenser brevirostrum	E	Atlantic coastal waters and Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers
Cougar, Eastern	Felis concolor cougar	E	Entire state/historic
Bat, Indiana	Myotis sodalis	Е	Berkshire/historic
Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Т	Barnstable, Berkshire, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Worcester
Plover, piping	Charadrius melodus	Т	Nesting: Barnstable, Essex, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket, Bristol (coastal beaches) Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Tern, Roseate	Sterna dougallii dougallii	Е	Nesting: Barnstable, Plymouth (coastal islands) Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Turtle, bog	Clemmys muhlenbergii	Т	Berkshire
Wedge mussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon	E	Hampshire, Franklin
Beetle, Puritan tiger	Cicindela puritana	Т	Hampshire (Connecticut River floodplain)
Beetle, Northeastern beach	Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis		Barnstable, Duke (coastal beaches)
Beetle, American burying	Nicrophorus americanus	E	Bristol, Nantucket (Penikese & Nantucket Isl.) reintroduced populations
Small whorled pogonia	Isotria medeoloides	Т	Hampshire, Essex, Hampden, Worcester, Middlesex
Sandplain gerardia	Agalinus acuta	Е	Barnstable, Duke
Northeastern bulrush	Scirpus ancistrochaetus	Е	Franklin

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Principal responsibility for this species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Common Name	Species	Status	County/General Distribution
Sturgeon, shortnose <sup>1</sup>	Acipenser brevirostrum	Е	Atlantic coastal waters
Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Т	Nesting: Coos, Merrimack, Cheshire, Sullivan Migratory/ wintering: entire state
Plover, piping	Charadrius melodus	Т	Nesting: Rockingham (coastal beaches)
Tern, Roseate	Sterna dougallii dougallii	Е	Nesting: Isles of Shoals Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Canada lynx	Lynx canadensis	Т	Coos
Cougar, Eastern	Felis concolor cougar	Е	Entire state/historic
Wolf, gray	Canis lupus	Е	Historic
Wedge mussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon	E	Cheshire (S. Branch Ashuelot, Ashuelot River) Sullivan (Connecticut River main stem), Grafton (Connecticut River main stem), Coos (Connecticut River main stem, Johns River)
Beetle, Puritan tiger	Cicindela puritana	Т	Extirpated (Connecticut River floodplain)
Butterfly, karner blue	Lycaeides melissa samuelis	T	Merrimack
Jesup's milk-vetch	Astragalus robbinsii var. jesupi	Е	Sullivan (Plainfield, Charlestown)
Small whorled pogonia	Isotria medeoloides	Т	Belknap, Strafford, Grafton, Merrimack, Rockingham, Carroll, Hillsborough
Northeastern bulrush	Scirpus ancistrochaetus	E	Sullivan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Principal responsibility for this species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN RHODE ISLAND

Common Name	Species	Status	County/General Distribution
Sturgeon, shortnose <sup>1</sup>	Acipenser brevirostrum	Е	Atlantic coastal waters
Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Т	Nesting: Providence Migratory: entire state
Plover, piping	Charadrius melodus	Т	Nesting: Newport, Washington (coastal beaches) Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Tern, Roseate	Sterna dougallii dougallii	E	Migratory: Atlantic Coast
Beetle, Northeastern beach	Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis	Т	Coastal beaches/Extirpated
Beetle, American burying	Nicrophorus americanus	E	Washington (Block Island)
Small whorled pogonia	Isotria medeoloides	Т	Providence, Kent
Sandplain gerardia	Agalinus acuta	Е	Washington

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Principal responsibility for this species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

# FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN VERMONT

Common Name	Species	Status	County/General Distribution
Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Т	Nesting: Addison, Windsor, Windham Migratory/ wintering: entire state
Canada lynx	Lynx canadensis	Т	Extirpated
Cougar, Eastern	Felis concolor cougar	Е	Historic
Wolf, gray	Canis lupus	Т	Historic
Bat, Indiana	Myotis sodalis	E	Addison, Chittendon, Rutland, Bennington
Wedge mussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon	E	Windsor and Windham (Connecticut River main stem)
Beetle, Puritan tiger	Cicindela puritana	Т	Extirpated (Connecticut River floodplain)
Jesup's milk-vetch	Astragalus robbinsii var. jesupi	E	Windsor (Hartland)
Small whorled pogonia	Isotria medeoloides	Т	Chittendon/historic
Northeastern bulrush	Scirpus ancistrochaetus	Е	Windsor, Windham

